



## **THE SCRIBBLER**

### **Sault Ste. Marie Branch of RWTO/OERO Spring and Summer 2025**

**SHARING**

**CARING**

**HAVING FUN**

### **Summer Message from Our Branch President, Patricia Lambert**

#### [Convention 2025 \(The Beginning of the Story\)](#)

In the July Calendar, you read my account of convention... but that was only half of the story. They say that it is not the destination, it is the journey. And in this case that is so true.

I decided to go to Convention a day early and visit with friends. I arrived at the airport for the Porter 6:40 a.m. flight. I was told the plane was delayed; it would be leaving at 9:15am.

Shortly thereafter, the flight was delayed again... 10:15 a.m.

A while later, we were told that the plane would be delayed till 10:45 a.m.

Finally, we were told, the flight was cancelled and we would be booked on a flight the following morning. However, we could try Air Canada to see if there were any seats available. Well, there were, but not enough! And the Air Canada flight would cost more than the round-trip fare for which I had already paid.

Next, I received a text from Porter saying that I was now booked on the 6:40 a.m. flight the following morning. I texted my daughter to pick me up. She was in a workshop and couldn't leave to pick me up till after 12:30. Great. So, being the resourceful person I am, I went to Porter to ask for a voucher home and another back the following morning. SUCCESS.

Home, I went.

I then contacted Porter to ask about a refund on my hotel room because by the time they cancelled my flight, there was no time to cancel my hotel. Porter said I had to apply online for my refund. So, I did, only to be told that I could not apply for the refund till 48 hours after the flight landed. It was June 25 and I was still waiting for Porter to determine if I would receive the refund.

After my wonderful, uneventful flight to Toronto the next morning, I decided to take the GO train to Brantford. Having never done that before, I asked for help. The GO employee said, "No problem. Train to Bradford".

I said, "No! Train to **BRANTFORD**".

Again, "No problem." She looked it up on her phone. OOPs. She couldn't get her phone to work. She passed me on to another employee.

A very polite young man said, "Bradford, no problem."

"Nooo, **BRANTFORD**, and I don't have a ticket."

He took me to the vending machine (and because we were short of time) punched in the info. I tapped my credit card and voila... a ticket! He then said, "Sit over there on the bench under the sign that says '6' and I will be there to help you in a few minutes.

I went. I sat. Thankfully, he came over and took me up the elevator to the correct platform, to the spot where the car had no steps to board the train.

Five minutes later I was on the train to Brantford. I couldn't believe my good luck. To reassure myself, I asked the Conductor if this was the train to Brantford.

He said, "This train doesn't go to Brantford... it goes to Aldershot!

"**ALDERSHOT!!!**"

Then he said, "You get off the train at Aldershot and take the bus to Brantford. No trains go to Brantford."

At Aldershot, I got off the train and walked toward the buses. I asked the driver of the first bus if he went to Brantford. Of course, he said, "No, but the bus behind me does."

I boarded that bus, asked if it went to Brantford. "Yes." The bus left, and we headed out and hit bumper to bumper traffic all the way to Brantford.

But we got there. At the Brantford Terminal I thought I would do a bathroom break and then ask information about the city bus to the hotel. Well, the Terminal had no washrooms. And all the employees had gone home for the day. I called a taxi and got to my hotel.

And everything got better after that. It was a spectacular Convention! Life definitely is an adventure!

Now it is time for you to start your own adventure. Become part of the Executive of RWTO/OERO Sault Ste. Marie Branch and open your mind to what adventures lie ahead for you.

Patricia Lambert



**Patricia With Other Ladies at Convention:** Left to right: Cathie Pirrie (Central Algoma), Patricia Lambert (President, Sault), Hénédine Weiman (Director, Sudbury), Suzanne Rondeau (Sudbury), Gisèle St. Onge (Sudbury), Marilyn Schatzler (Central Algoma), Mary Jane Thompson (Central Algoma) and Carol Neave (Director, Central Algoma).





**Provincial Executive:** Back Row: Sandie Bender, 2<sup>nd</sup> V.P., LeAnne Taylor, Recording Secretary, Jane Pelletier, Parliamentarian, Jan Murdoch, Past President, Betty Lee -Daigle, 1<sup>st</sup> V.P., Sandra Salerno, Honorary President, Patricia Lambert, 2<sup>nd</sup> V.P. Front Row: Kathy Smith, Connections Newsletter, Linda Huffman, Executive Secretary-Treasurer, Linda Sargeant, President, Margaret Geare, Webmaster, Hénédine Weiman, Archivist.



Our Branch President, Patricia L., (left) proudly accepted the 1<sup>st</sup> place Barbara Bain Award for Tier 2 mid- size branches. Our Sault Ste. Marie Branch received this award for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row for the significant number of new members we have welcomed. We received the certificate and \$400.

Thank you to all new members who have joined and to those who have encouraged them to join RWTO/OERO.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO US!**

\*\*\*The following three reports are about General Branch Meetings held from February to June 2025.

### Feb. 26---**Fun and Games**

This general meeting was a get-together for Games Day.

Just before the games began, a few messages were shared with everyone.

President Patricia L. welcomed all members and especially new members. The new members received their pins and a book Uncommon Women.



Area 11 Director, Carol Neave, (far right) presented the RWTO/OERO pins and books **Right to left**: Valerie Zuke, Maria Salazar, and Mary Melesky. Between Maria and Mary is President Patricia L. and far left is Susan T.

A provincial meeting was announced that would discuss the trend in declined interest in the roles of president and vice-president. In hopes of keeping all branches going, the possibilities of “role-sharing “were to be discussed along with other recommendations.

Area director, Carol Neave, shared that she is part of a provincial committee created through Social Justice for Women with the goal of helping the general population to be more informed about long-term care facilities.

The committee, using modelled questions from St. Catherines Branch, were gathering an extensive list of answers from these questions. Eventually they will publish a brochure for our area extending from Blind River to Sault Ste. Marie. Carol extended an invitation to anyone who might be interested in joining the committee.

Barb P. received the Cora Bailey Award from committee members Brenda O. and Emily N. for her many contributions to our branch. Barb received a framed certificate and a framed picture with a description of her extensive involvement in RWTO as a member and past president. We are proud of you, Barb!



Barb P. (left) and Brenda O.(right) discussed the award.

Members of one group became very involved in a game called “Quiddler” while another group had a serious game of “Mexican Train” going on which continued long into the afternoon. Other members enjoyed each other’s company and conversation. Delicious treats donated by members were enjoyed. Fun was had by all!



## April 30—*HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL*

We began the meeting with a presentation by Rita W. and Sandy F. of the beautiful baby quilt they created as members of the Steelton Quilters Bee. They donated the quilt for the silent auction at the RWTO/OERO 69<sup>th</sup> A.G.M. Convention. The ladies have been generously donating a quilt for many years.



L to R: Quilters Sandy F. and Rita W.

The Audit Report and Proposed Budget for 2025-26 were presented by Treasurer, Sandy F., and accepted by the members.

Patricia L. welcomed Denise Chevrier and Geri Plecash with RWTO pins and book.

Patricia was congratulated for accepting the co-position for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice at the Provincial Level. We wish her a rewarding experience!

The current executive was introduced. We thank all members of the executive who are finishing up the first year of a two-year term.

After asking for nominations for the two open executive positions, there were none. First Vice and Second Vice continue to be open positions at the time.

Members are encouraged to sign on as a Member-at-Large and attend executive meetings to learn about the way the executive members support each other and how RWTO/OERO works. Consider calling a member friend and sign on to learn!

### GOODWILL

Rita W. reported that from January to April 2025, 13 sympathy cards, 13 get-well cards and 5 donations to close family members were sent out.



Cards were also mailed to our colleagues in Central Algoma-- one for our former Area Director who passed away and a birthday card for an RTO member celebrating her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday who is a friend of many RWTO members. Rita reminded all of us to let her know when someone needs “reaching out”.



### ARCHIVES

Thanks to Gerry Yeo, we have wonderful Archives for the last 20+ years. Our information regarding earlier years is a little skimpy. If you, or your mother or auntie, happen to have old cards, pictures, stories or antiquities regarding our Sault Ste. Marie branch from our earliest years we would love a copy if you are willing and able to share.



## GETTING OUT TO MEETINGS by PATRICIA LAMBERT



If you attend General Membership Meetings and have room for a passenger in your vehicle and are willing to pick up a member needing a transportation, please give me a call.

If you would like to attend a General Membership meeting, but are having difficulty getting there, let me know. By using postal codes, I can find the members who live closest to you.

We have matched a few members in the past, and it has resulted in new friendships.

Patricia Lambert 257-9393



After singing “Happy Birthday to Us”, we all enjoyed delicious cupcakes and other goodies donated by members. Brenda O. had decorated the table for us with balloons and birthday napkins.



Looks yummy! Darleen Z. (left) and Susan T.(right)

## June 30 Our Annual General Meeting and Luncheon at Gateway Casinos of Sault Ste. Marie

Erminia G. was officially welcomed to our branch receiving her pin and Uncommon Women book.

Patricia L. shared her experiences at the convention in Brantford including her descriptive recount which she also sent out to members with the July calendar.

The door prize was drawn and the lunch began consisting of tortellini soup, a selection of hearty deli wraps and sandwiches, veggies and dip, garden and Caesar salads and a selection of dessert bars.

It was a pleasant afternoon of great conversation and laughs. Some ladies stayed for a while in the casino taking advantage of the \$10 gambling ticket each member received.



Left to Right: Arlene L., guest Jenn C., President Patricia L. and Area 11 Director Carol N.





Left to right: Marg W., Archivist Gerry Y., Social Convenor Susan T., Marg T., Mary M., Carol G., Goodwill Convenor Rita W., and Secretary Darleen Z.



Left to right: Carol R., Communication Convenor Brenda G., Pat P., Member-at-Large Bernice W., Telephone Convenor Carol McF. and Diane M.



Left to right: Carol C., Treasurer Sandy F., Social Convenor Brenda O., Erminia G., and Valerie Z.



Mary Anne P. (left) and Vi P.(right)

Thank you very much from all of us for your hard work, Brenda O., in organizing the lovely afternoon before summer vacation.



Hoping that you will enjoy at least one picnic and at least one ice cream cone this summer.



*"Oh, Marilla," Anne exclaimed breathlessly, "there's going to be a Sunday-school picnic next week--in Mr. Harmon Andrews' field, right near the Lake of Shining Waters. And Mrs. Superintendent Bell and Mrs. Rachel Lynde are going to make ice cream--think of it, Marilla--ice cream! And, oh, Marilla, can I go to it?"*

Quote from Anne of Green Gables by Lucy Maud Montgomery, chapter 13, "The Delights of Anticipation".

**Newsletter by Brenda Gallander**

**Photos by Gerry Y. and Brenda G.**

